



# Collective Worship Policy

Signed Chair of Governors following approval by Governing Body:

*S.P. Smith*

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> March 2015

Date next review due: March 2018

Person/Committee responsible for review: Governing Body

## **Aims and purpose**

The aims and purpose of collective worship are:

- to provide an opportunity for the children to worship God;
- to enable children to consider spiritual and moral issues;
- to enable children to explore their own beliefs;
- to enable children to develop the skills of reflection and appreciation;
- to encourage participation and response;
- to develop in children a sense of community spirit;
- to promote a common ethos with shared values and to reinforce positive attitudes;
- to teach children how to worship.

## **Collective worship**

We understand worship to be a special act or occasion whose purpose is to show reverence to God. Collective worship involves members of the school coming together and participating in an act of worship. We expect everyone to take part in the worship unless parents have requested that their children do not attend.

In line with the 1988 Education Reform Act, which states that collective worship should be 'wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character', we normally base our worship times on the teachings of Christ and traditions of the Christian Church. However, they are conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the individual faith and beliefs of all members of the school.

While the majority of acts of worship in our school are Christian, we also include reflections from other religious traditions that may be represented in the school and which are part of the diverse world in which we live.

## **Organisation of collective worship**

We hold a daily act of collective worship in our school. This forms part of each morning assembly. Children are regularly involved in these acts of collective worship. Groupings may be whole school or class based.

We conduct worship times in a dignified and respectful way. We teach the children how to be alert and relaxed, and how to be calm and reflective. We regard coming together as a special time and expect children to behave in an appropriate way. We ask them to be quiet and thoughtful and to listen carefully to the teachings and encourage them to participate fully in prayer, thoughts and songs. We create an appropriate atmosphere by using music and sometimes candles or other objects that act as a focal point for the attention of the children.

The head teacher or other members of staff normally lead worship sessions. Sometimes local clergy or other representatives of local religious groups lead them and sometimes children.

We take the themes of our assemblies from the traditions of the Christian faith and we often reflect the festivals and events of the Christian calendar. Sometimes the themes reflect and build on topics that we teach as part of the wider curriculum.

One assembly each week is designed to reflect the achievements and learning of the children which are over and above our expectations. We encourage the children to participate in assemblies by showing their work to the other children and raising issues that they have discussed in their classes. Assemblies offer an opportunity to acknowledge and reward children for their achievements both in and out of schools. They play an important part in promoting the ethos of the school, which is that all children are valued

and all achievements are recognised. Culgaith School is a successful school and we enjoy celebrating the successes of all the children. Collective worship is an important part of this Celebration Assembly too.

We welcome visitors to our collective worship times.

### **Right of withdrawal**

We expect all children to attend collective worship times. However, parents/carers can request permission for their child to be excused from attending religious worship and the school will make alternative arrangements for the supervision of the child during the period concerned. Parents do not have to explain or give reasons for this. This complies with the 1944 Education Act and was restated in the 1988 Education Reform Act.

The head teacher keeps a record of all children who withdraw from collective worship.

### **Monitoring and review**

It is the role of a named school governor with responsibility for religious education and collective worship to monitor the policy and practice of collective worship. The governor concerned liaises with the head teacher before reporting to the governors on religious education and collective worship.